

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





(May, 1926)

BRIEF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE  
VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE.

1.9  
A981BS  
NOV 1 1926

Office of the Secretary. -- The Secretary of Agriculture is charged with the work of promoting agriculture in its broadest sense. He exercises general supervision and control over the affairs of the Department and formulates and establishes the general policies to be pursued by its various branches and offices. Under the Office of the Secretary are his immediate office, the offices of the Assistant Secretary, the Directors of Scientific, Regulatory, and Extension Work, the Director of Information, the Director of Personnel and Business Administration, and the Solicitor. For convenience in administration, the Office of the Secretary as at present organized includes, in addition to the general administrative branches mentioned, the following subdivisions:

(a) Office of Information. -- This office consists of the Division of Publications, the Press Service, and the Radio Service. The Division of Publications supervises the expenditure of the appropriation for printing and binding for the department; conducts all business of the department transacted with the Government Printing Office; has general supervision of all editing, printing, indexing, illustrating, binding, and distribution of publications, and the maintenance of mailing lists. An addressing, duplicating and mailing section is maintained to serve the various bureaus of the Department. The Press Service secures the circulation in popular form of the discoveries and recommendations of the scientists, specialists, and field workers of the department; gives out to the public press agricultural facts taken from publications and official orders, and also from oral statements of specialists, this material being set forth in such form as to attract public attention, be easily understandable, and lead to the adoption of the methods recommended; also keeps in close touch with correspondents and other writers, providing suggestions and material for articles. The Radio Service furnishes daily, through broadcasting from many stations in all parts of the United States, authentic information, of practical use to farmers and others, concerning the discoveries made by the department and the farm practices recommended by it. Questions in all fields of agriculture and home economics are answered by radio. Special information as to gardening is furnished to boys and girls.

(b) Office of Experiment Stations. -- This office exercises supervision over the operations of the State agricultural experiment stations under Federal appropriations authorized by the Hatch, Adams, and Purnell acts for research work, and affords such advice and assistance as will best promote the efficiency of these activities. It also collects and disseminates information regarding similar institutions throughout the world. The experiment stations of the Department of Agriculture in Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands are also conducted under the general direction of this office.



REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE  
NAVY DEPARTMENT  
ON THE  
NAVY DEPARTMENT

Office of the Secretary -- The Secretary of the Navy is charged with the duty of providing for the maintenance of the Navy. He is responsible for the general supervision and control of the Navy, and for the execution of the laws relating to the Navy. He is also responsible for the management of the Navy's finances, and for the procurement of the Navy's supplies. The Secretary is assisted by a staff of officers and civilians, and by a number of bureaus and offices. The following are the principal bureaus and offices of the Navy Department:

(a) Office of the Secretary -- This office is the central office of the Navy Department. It is responsible for the general supervision and control of the Navy, and for the execution of the laws relating to the Navy. It is also responsible for the management of the Navy's finances, and for the procurement of the Navy's supplies. The Secretary is assisted by a staff of officers and civilians, and by a number of bureaus and offices. The following are the principal bureaus and offices of the Navy Department:

(b) Office of the Secretary -- This office is the central office of the Navy Department. It is responsible for the general supervision and control of the Navy, and for the execution of the laws relating to the Navy. It is also responsible for the management of the Navy's finances, and for the procurement of the Navy's supplies. The Secretary is assisted by a staff of officers and civilians, and by a number of bureaus and offices. The following are the principal bureaus and offices of the Navy Department:



(c) Extension Service. -- This service cooperates with the extension divisions of the State agricultural colleges in their plans and expenditures for extension work in agriculture and home economics under the Smith-Lever act. It acts as an agency for coordinating the extension work of the several bureaus of the department with similar work carried on by the State agricultural colleges. It also has charge of the preparation, installation, and display of agricultural exhibits at State, interstate, and international fairs, and of the motion-picture activities of the Department.

Weather Bureau. -- The Weather Bureau has charge of the forecasting of the weather; the issue and display of weather forecasts and storm, cold-wave, frost, and flood warnings; the gauging and reporting of river stages; the maintenance and operation of the United States Weather Bureau telegraph and telephone lines; the collection and transmission of marine intelligence for the benefit of commerce and navigation; the reporting of temperature and rainfall conditions for agricultural interests; and the taking of such meteorological observations as may be necessary to determine and record the climatic conditions of the United States.

Bureau of Animal Industry. -- This Bureau is primarily concerned with the promotion of the livestock and meat industries of the United States, except in so far as dairy cattle are concerned. It conducts scientific investigations of the causes, prevention, and treatment of diseases of domestic animals; investigates the actual existence of communicable diseases of such animals, and aids in their control and eradication; carries on investigations and experiments in animal husbandry and in the feeding and breeding of animals. It also is charged with the administration of the meat inspection act, the animal quarantine acts, the 28-hour law, the diseased animal transportation acts, and the virus-serum-toxin act.

Bureau of Dairy Industry. -- The Bureau of Dairy Industry investigates problems relating to the dairy industry along the following lines: Bacteriology and chemistry of milk; breeding and nutrition of dairy cattle; dairy cattle management; dairy sanitation; dairy plant management; production and distribution of market milk; manufacture of dairy products and by-products; and the introduction of new principles and methods in dairying. It is also charged with the administration of the act regulating the shipment in interstate or foreign commerce of process or renovated butter.

Bureau of Plant Industry. -- The Bureau of Plant Industry studies plant life in all its relations to agriculture. It conducts investigations of the causes, prevention, and treatment of diseases of plants, including fruit, ornamental, shade, and forest trees; investigations in soil bacteriology; in plant nutrition; in soil fertility; of the acclimatization and adaptation of crop plants introduced from tropical regions, including the investigation of potential rubber-producing plants; of drug and poisonous plants; in plant physiology and fermentation; of plant-



(c) **Exchange of Information** -- This section contains the following:

also division of the State Department in their plans and  
exchange of information for exchange with the State Department  
the State Department. It also contains the following:  
work of the several divisions of the State Department  
on by the State Department. It also contains the following:  
line, installation and division of the State Department  
also, and information, and of the State Department  
the State Department.

(d) **Exchange of Information** -- This section contains the following:

line of the State Department in their plans and  
exchange of information for exchange with the State Department  
the State Department. It also contains the following:  
work of the several divisions of the State Department  
on by the State Department. It also contains the following:  
line, installation and division of the State Department  
also, and information, and of the State Department  
the State Department.

(e) **Exchange of Information** -- This section contains the following:

line of the State Department in their plans and  
exchange of information for exchange with the State Department  
the State Department. It also contains the following:  
work of the several divisions of the State Department  
on by the State Department. It also contains the following:  
line, installation and division of the State Department  
also, and information, and of the State Department  
the State Department.

(f) **Exchange of Information** -- This section contains the following:

line of the State Department in their plans and  
exchange of information for exchange with the State Department  
the State Department. It also contains the following:  
work of the several divisions of the State Department  
on by the State Department. It also contains the following:  
line, installation and division of the State Department  
also, and information, and of the State Department  
the State Department.

(g) **Exchange of Information** -- This section contains the following:

line of the State Department in their plans and  
exchange of information for exchange with the State Department  
the State Department. It also contains the following:  
work of the several divisions of the State Department  
on by the State Department. It also contains the following:  
line, installation and division of the State Department  
also, and information, and of the State Department  
the State Department.



infesting nematodes and of problems in crop technology; of fiber plants; of biophysical problems related to plant production; in seed testing; in the improvement and production of cereals; of alkali and drought-resistant crops; in economic and systematic botany; in the improvement and utilization of wild plants and grazing lands; in weed control; in dry-land agriculture; in the agricultural utilization of land reclaimed under the reclamation act and of other areas in arid and semiarid regions; in fruit production, harvesting, and handling; in the production and harvesting of truck and related crops, landscape and vegetable gardening, floriculture, and related subjects; in the introduction into the United States of foreign seeds and plants; of forage crops; of cotton; of tobacco; of flax; of broomcorn; of sugar beets and other sugar plants; of date, fig, and other important special industries. This bureau is also in charge of the Arlington (Va.) experiment farm and the administration of the seed importation act.

Forest Service. -- The Forest Service administers the national forests; cooperates with States in maintaining organized protection of forest lands against fire; conducts investigations in the entire field of forestry, including economic and industrial as well as forest research; diffuses information relating to the best use of forests and forest products; promulgates rules and regulations for the administration of grazing on national-forest ranges under general authority governing the occupancy and use of the forests; and, in short, seeks to promote the application of forestry throughout the country on both public and privately-owned lands, together with efficient and economical use of their yields. The national forests comprise approximately 157 million acres of Government-owned land and contain approximately one-fifth of the timber in the United States, besides furnishing forage and recreation resources of great public value. Their administration aims to coordinate and develop to the utmost their use in the best public interest, through application of the technical methods of forestry as a subdivision of the art of agriculture. Sustained and, where possible, increased yields of water, timber, and livestock products are secured, along with provision for many other forms of use, under carefully devised management plans and systematic protection of the forests against fire and other destructive agencies. The management plans employ the scientific regulation of timber cutting and livestock grazing as means for securing reforestation and range conservation, along with full use of the annual growth obtain through such regulation.

Bureau of Chemistry. -- The Bureau of Chemistry applies the science of chemistry to the improvement of agriculture, develops processes for the utilization of agricultural products, and makes biological investigations of foods and drugs, including their physiological effects on the human organism. It conducts experiments on the utilization, for coloring, medicinal, and technical purposes, of raw materials grown or produced in the United States. This bureau also develops improved processes for grading, weighing, handling, transporting, and utilizing resin and turpentine. It conducts investigations for the development of methods







of manufacturing insecticides and fungicides and studies chemical problems relating to the composition, action, and application of insecticides and fungicides. It improves methods for dehydrating materials used for foods. It develops means to prevent grain-dust, smut-dust, and other plant-dust explosions and resulting fires, including fires in cotton gins and cotton-oil mills. The bureau enforces the Federal food and drugs act, commonly called the pure food law, the tea inspection act, and the naval stores act. It analyses samples and, in cooperation with other department agencies, makes chemical investigations necessary in the enforcement of the insecticide act. It makes chemical tests and investigations for other Government departments, especially of foods and drugs for the Army and Navy.

*classified*  
Bureau of Soils. -- The Bureau of Soils conducts surveys of soils for the purpose of soil types and determining the agriculture suitable to the various types; maps soils; studies and classifies agricultural lands in the national forests; investigates the relations of soils to climatic conditions and plant growth; determines the physical and chemical composition and properties of soils and their relations to productivity; investigates the fertilizer resources of the United States; studies the compatability and mixing of fertilizer materials and their suitability for use; investigates methods of preparing fertilizer compounds, and determines the value of other soil amendments.

Fixed Nitrogen Research Laboratory. -- The Fixed Nitrogen Research Laboratory studies the processes of fixation and utilization of atmospheric nitrogen, with special reference to the problems of agriculture and the national defense. The laboratory keeps advised as far as possible of the work being done in research and development of nitrogen fixation resources throughout the world and codifies and makes available this information, besides carrying on independent investigations with respect to the efficacy and economy of different processes of nitrogen fixation; the development of new processes and the improvement of the old ones, and clarification of the fundamental scientific facts and theories underlying such processes. Through its engineering division, the laboratory also attempts to carry its new improvements or inventions into sufficiently concrete industrial development to make them readily understandable and available to the industry, and in every way possible facilitates the growth and development of the nitrogen fixation and fertilizer industry in the United States.

Bureau of Entomology. -- The Bureau of Entomology conducts investigations relating to economic entomology, the history and habits of insects injurious and beneficial to agriculture, horticulture, and arboriculture; studies bee culture and beekeeping practices; investigates insects affecting the health of man and domestic animals, including the best means of destroying those found to be injurious. It is also engaged in checking the spread of the gipsy and brown-tail moths, the Japanese beetle, the European corn borer, etc.







Bureau of Biological Survey. -- The Bureau of Biological Survey studies the distribution and habits of native wild life; makes biological surveys of areas and from these investigations maps the natural life zones of the country; investigates the relation of wild birds and animals to agriculture and stock raising with a view to the control of the harmful and the conservation of the useful species; conducts campaigns for the extermination of predatory wild animals, destructive rodents, and other injurious forms; experiments in fur farming, and studies the diseases to which fur bearers are subject in domestication; makes investigations for the improvement of Alaskan reindeer herds, and administers Federal laws relating to game and bird reservations, to migratory game, nongame, and insectivorous birds, to importation of foreign wild birds and animals, to interstate commerce in wild birds and game, and to Alaskan land fur-bearing animals and other game.

Bureau of Public Roads. -- The engineering work of the Department of Agriculture is handled by the Bureau of Public Roads. The work is divided into two main branches - highway engineering and agricultural engineering. The highway engineering branch deals with all highway functions of the department contemplated by the regular appropriations and also with the work of administering the Federal-aid and forest road appropriations. The agricultural engineering branch conducts investigations of farm irrigation and drainage, farm machinery, farm buildings, and other rural engineering problems.

Bureau of Agricultural Economics. -- This bureau conducts investigations in the cost of production and marketing, farm organization, farm financial relations, farm labor, agricultural history and geography, land economics, and the problems of rural life. The bureau also acquires and disseminates information regarding the marketing and distributing of farm and nonmanufactured food products, and collects, compiles, summarizes, interprets, and makes public statistical data relating to agricultural production. Studies are made of marketing methods, conditions, and costs, and with regard to the standardization, transportation, handling, and storage of agricultural products. Reports are issued by the bureau which contain information on the supply, commercial movement, disposition, and market prices of fruits and vegetables, livestock and meats, dairy and poultry products, and hay, feed, and seed. Information is secured and published also with regard to the supply of and demand for certain agricultural products in foreign countries. A market inspection service on fruits and vegetables is maintained in most of the States, and butter grading service at several of the principal markets of the country. Regulatory work is performed in connection with the enforcement of the cotton futures act, the cotton standards act, the grain standards act, the standard container act, and in the administration of the warehouse act. The Center Market in the city of Washington is also operated by this bureau.







Bureau of Home Economics. -- The Bureau of Home Economics conducts scientific studies of problems connected with the home, including questions of food and nutrition, economics, textiles, and clothing, housing and equipment, and arts in home life. It assists the homemaker in the solution of these problems through the compilation of helpful information from various sources and by making this information available through Farmers' Bulletins. The results of its original research are published in the form of technical bulletins. The bureau employs no field agents, but its popular bulletins and the results of its investigations are sent out through the home demonstration agents and made available to the State colleges.

Insecticide and Fungicide Board. -- The Insecticide and Fungicide Board is charged with the administration of the act to prevent the manufacture, sale, or transportation of adulterated or misbranded Paris greens, lead arsenate, and other insecticides and fungicides, including disinfectants, and for regulating traffic in these articles. It also maintains a station at Vienna, Va., and at three other locations in different parts of the country for the practical testing of the efficacy of various insecticidal and fungicidal preparations appearing on the market.

Federal Horticultural Board. -- The Federal Horticultural Board is charged with the enforcement of the plant quarantine act, regulating the importation of plants and plant products, including nursery stock, fruits, vegetables, cotton, and other plants and plant products necessary to exclude new and dangerous plant pests, as well as the movement within the United States of any plant or plant products or other article necessary to prevent the spread of new plant pests which have more or less limited foothold. The board also administers a number of special appropriations for the purpose of controlling or eradicating new pests such as the pink bollworm of cotton and potato wart disease, and cooperates with the Bureaus of Entomology and Plant Industry in quarantine control work under similar appropriations made to those bureaus covering such pests as the European corn borer, Japanese beetle, gipsy and brown-tail moths, black stem rust of wheat, and pine blister rust.

Packers and Stockyards Administration. -- This office is charged with carrying out the provisions of the packers and stockyards act of August 15, 1921, relating to the supervision of the business in interstate commerce of meat packers, public stockyards markets, and commission men, traders, and other agencies operating in the public stockyard markets of the United States. Such duties include supervision of the business conduct and practices in interstate commerce of such agencies and the determination of rates and charges for service rendered in the public stockyard markets.

Grain Futures Administration. -- This office is charged with carrying out the provisions of the grain futures act of September 21, 1922, which brings under the supervision of the Federal Government certain phases of the business conducted on all grain future exchanges in the



Bureau of Plant Industry. -- The Bureau of Plant Industry is charged with the scientific studies of problems connected with the home, including diseases of food and nutrition, economic, forestry, and other plants, and equipment, and with the home life. It carries the home life information of these problems through the compilation of helpful information from various sources and by making this information available through various bulletins. The results of the scientific research are published in the form of technical bulletins. The Bureau employs no field agents, but its regular bulletins and the results of its investigations are sent out through the home demonstration agents and made available to the home colonies.

Insecticide and Fungicide Board. -- The Insecticide and Fungicide Board is charged with the administration of the act to prevent the importation, sale, or distribution of adulterated or misbranded insecticides, fungicides, and other insecticides and fungicides, including disinfectants, and for regulating traffic in these articles. It also maintains a station at Vienna, Va., and at other locations in different parts of the country for the practical testing of the efficiency of various insecticides and fungicides appearing on the market.

Federal Horticultural Board. -- The Federal Horticultural Board is charged with the enforcement of the plant quarantine act, regulating the importation of plants and plant products, including nursery stock, fruit, vegetables, cotton, and other plants and plant products necessary to exclude new and dangerous plant pests, as well as the movement within the United States of any plant or plant product or other article necessary to prevent the spread of new plant pests which have not yet been limited locally. The Board also administers a number of special appropriations for the purpose of controlling or eradicating new pests such as the plant bollworm of cotton and potato wart disease, and cooperation with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Industry in quarantine control work under similar appropriations made to these bureaus covering such pests as the European corn borer, Japanese beetle, elytrid and brown-bellied moth, black stem rust of wheat, and pine blister rust.

Grain Futures Administration. -- This office is charged with carrying out the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards act of August 25, 1921, relating to the supervision of the business in interstate commerce of meat packers, public stockyards, and commission men, brokers, and other agencies operating in the public stockyard markets of the United States. Such duties include supervision of the business conduct and practices in interstate commerce of such agencies and the determination of rates and charges for services rendered in the public stockyard markets.

Grain Futures Administration. -- This office is charged with carrying out the provisions of the Grain Futures act of September 21, 1922, which places under the supervision of the Federal Government certain phases of the business conducted on all grain futures exchanges in the



United States. This requires continuous supervision of the operations of exchanges through inspection of records which members are required to keep and consideration of reports requested by the Secretary from time to time.

Library. -- The Department Library, with its branch libraries in the various bureaus, contains approximately 180,000 volumes on agriculture and the related sciences and receives currently some 3,000 periodicals. The dictionary card catalogue of the main library contains a half million cards, exclusive of several extensive special indexes which are maintained by the various bureau libraries. These together form the most extensive bibliography of agriculture and related sciences available in the United States. The Library has a loan arrangement with the State agricultural colleges and experiment stations and with other research institutions throughout the country and endeavors in various ways to serve as the national agricultural library.



United States. The various countries maintain a list of the countries  
of exchange through inspection of reports which numbers are reported  
to keep and consideration of reports requested by the Secretary from  
time to time.

Library. - The Department Library, with its branch libraries  
in the various bureaus, contains approximately 100,000 volumes on  
agriculture and the related sciences and technical subjects. The library contains  
periodicals. The library also contains a half million cards, indexes of various subjects  
which are maintained by the various branch libraries. These subjects  
form the most extensive bibliography of agriculture and related sciences  
available in the United States. The library has a close arrangement with  
the State Agricultural colleges and experiment stations and with other  
research institutions throughout the country and elsewhere in various  
ways to serve as the national agricultural library.